decisions in this regard. It is for the State Governments to tackle and control the problem of betting and gambling in their respective States according to the laws passed by the respective legislatures.

Media reports on performance of DRDO

*332. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken note of certain recent media reports on the performance of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO);

(b) if so, whether Government share the assessment of such reports;

(c) whether Government consider that such report might undermine the overall achievements of DRDO in defence sector and influence the public perception;

(d) whether Government have ascertained the reasons for such one-sided media reporting; if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to correct the media and public perception on DRDO's achievements, without undermining the morale of DRDO scientists?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The Government has taken note of the reports on the performance of DRDO published in a section of the media. The Government does not agree to the assertions made in the reports. However, some of the data referred in the media reports relate to the data already given to Standing Committee on Defence and Parliament. Such media reports undermine the overall achievements of DRDO and also influence the public perception to some extent.

DRDO has taken the route of sharing more on technolog front with the defence and science correspondents. The Secretary Defence R&D, and

chief Controllers have addressed the DRDO scientists and media on significant achievements of DRDO. The scientists, in general, have left behind the criticism and are working and achieving the objectives with remarkable vigours. In addition, Secretary, Defence Research & Development and Chief Controllers have appeared on TV Channels to put forth the ground reality.

Persons registered in J&K under NREGS

*333. CHOWDHARY MOHAMMAD ASLAM: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons registered upto 31st December, 2006 in J&K, district-wise, under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme;

(b) the number, out of them who were given employment upto 31st December, 2006, district-wise, with the actual number of days for which employment was given on average, and the daily wages paid to each worker for the period from 2nd February to 31st December, 2006;

(c) the extent of funds given by the Central Government for the purpose;

(d) the extent to which those funds were utilized; and

(e) whether the unutilized funds would be carried over to the next year and if not, whether they would lapse?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) the requisite details are given in the table below. Under Section 6 of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, the workers are entitled to be paid the minimum wages for agricultural labourers prevailing in the state. Details of actual wages paid to the individuals are maintained at the field level in the districts. Individual wise data of wages paid is not maintained by the Ministry.

(e) Yes, Sir. The unutilized funds would be carried over to the next year.